

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Form Bi-689

FIELD DIARY

Mr. _____

Vernon Bailey

(Official title.)

Period, _____

to _____

1924

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April 29 Took the Ford truck with
Dana Lee and Jim White and went
to Daughter Canyon, around by Black
River and Washington's ranch, through
20 miles of prairie dog and jack
rabbit country.

Climbed up to first right hand
cave, about 600 feet from bottom of
canyon up very steep and rough slope,
on east side of canyon near top of
wall, probably 400 feet to real top.

A large open tunnel with arched
doorway half full of debris.
Cave runs back about 300 feet & is
100 wide and about as high.
Is some light to the back end.
Some old bat or bird guano but
none of importance or recent deposit.
Owls, swallows, sayornis and Canyon
wrens nesting in roof.
Ring tail & mottled & moust tracks common

Considerable signs of ancient habitation
smashed walls and old fire material.
A hundred Indians could have lived
in it comfortably all winter and
the big mescal pits at the point
of the ridge below show a rather
large Indian population.
There are many drip places with
plenty of water to be caught in dishes.
Old cracked bones show where game
had been used. The cave is
a wonderful stronghold, where the
whole valley can be watched and
a few men could keep back an army
or could escape to the tops of
the cliffs above. Food is
abundant in the form of *Tehuacilla*
& *Sotol* & both are so common
that one is sure to always
have some numerous.

In afternoon went up to the
Guano cave, ^{a mile} above the goat
ranch on east side of east arm
of Canyon but found nothing new
since I was there before. It is only
100 feet above the canyon bottom
easily accessible, larger but of
the same great tunnel form,
probably 1,000 feet long and 100
wide and high. A herd of goats
have been occupying it for years
as a winter resort, just as
Mountain sheep & Indians
did 2000 years ago. There is
plenty of water in it, and some
large stalactites and stalagmites but
nothing of great beauty. It was
worth and the light barely reaches
the back and the front half is
fairly light. Ring tails, owls,
Gophers, rats & mice live here.

Another cave between the two on the east side of Slaughter Canyon is very deep and dangerous, going down some 200 feet deep in the side of the canyon wall & only entered by ropes & ladders.

Considerable guano has been taken out of it but one man was killed in it and then abandoned.

but 3 dead muzzles show that poison is kept out to kill cats

+ foxes & mountain lions.

The canyon walls are high and rough and picturesque and it would afford ideal big game hunting grounds.

Between these

A few car loads of guano were taken out a dozen years ago but no equipment or cables and machinery & work.

There is no fresh guano except of the goats, etc. The old guano is large and may be of some larger species but not of Nyctinomus.

Most of the bats that come to water at the goat ranch just below are Eptesicus.

April 30. Went up the west side of Slaughter Canyon about 2 miles to the first cabs and climbed 400 feet on its south side up an old bison trail to a most interesting cave where big horns still live and that should be called Bighorn Cave or cavern.

It is about half way up the wall of a wonderful picturesque canyon, ideal range for big horns & mule deer and well hidden by both. Lots of push over tracks and push beds were seen along the zigzag trail but when we entered the cave through a small hole on the east side of a high rocky ridge and looked out through the great arched opening on our level to the west and saw the most picturesque cave I ever and surroundings I ever

saw we kept about the mule trail
for there were big horn trails entering
the cave door, fresh big horn tracks
in the cave and well worn trails
back to the water pool at the head.
The cave measured 400 feet in
length, about 100 feet wide and
75 feet for an average height.
It has a fairly level floor with
some piles of debris and some
stalagmit formations built up and
a rough slope of fallen blocks of
limestone on one side.
There are numerous stalactites and
the whole effect is of a great
palace of the cave dwellings of the
dawn of civilization. Rain light
penetrates to the far end but there are
dark corners and under the broken rocks
retreats for many of the smaller animals.
A lower level extends down to the
north with several rooms below but

Not of special interest is a hidden

opening on the slope west of the goat door

laid down 30 or 40 feet into the rocks.

The goat door is a garden of

flowering trees & shrubs well into

the mouth of the cave and the outside

is a wonderful picture of cliffs &

terraces, too steep & rough for any

domestic stock to ever graze.

Rocks & trails & beds of debris

A mountain sheep show this cave

to be the winter resort of a considerable

number but also a watering place

during the year. The sheep quarry

is deep in places and very old.

parts of two skulls and some other bones

show that they have been killed here

and the lack of any Indian signs of life

suggest that it was not used as

as a convenient place to sleep for men

when needed. It is a perfect sheep trap.

There are great abundance of tracks & the most common for singular, are supposed to be bear tracks. I have seen bear tracks in it. Both sheep & bear bones were found and probably bear have been hunted here in recent years. Of course mountain lions & bobcats have been here but both are now scarce. Wood rats, mice & small tracks are numerous in dusty places.

The bird fauna is no less abundant & interesting. A colony of white-throated swifts breed in a long crack in the rock cliff edge all summer. In 1883 they were noted this year at a time bringing together more wealth. About 3 car loads of gold was taken out of a hole which had rotted down a burrow in the

Much of it has been burned or mixed
with bat and bighorn guano.
Half a dozen of the swifts were circling
and shrieking through the cave and
occasionally disappearing — the
racket overhead but the colony has
not yet returned. They make a
wonderful display, cutting out of in
through the great cave doors.

A pair of cliff swallows have a
nest in a hole in the roof, a
natural cavity where no mud is
needed. Toyonius says he has one
nest, at least, in the roof of the cave
and a pair of Canyon wrens nest
in the doorway. There is a
beautiful last year's hummer nest
on a mulberry twig well back
in the mouth of the cave and
Trochilus albopileus was seen below.
Great horned owls nest and roost at

Cave in the cave ad gulps up their pellets under every ledge ad perching place in the cave. Near some of the tall stalagmites the ground is strewn with bones of all the small rodents, many birds ad reptiles of the vicinity ad a gallon can was filled with these for more careful examination. There are still bushels of bones lying on the ground for more extended study of future naturalists.

Several genera of shells were picked up with the bones but not a part of the owl food.

Took many photographs of caves ad plants ad quick views of the canyon.

Water is scarce in the canyon but is found in most of the caves ad in several springs in side canyons or on the slopes.

Returned to Carlsbad Caves in P.M.

May 1. Packed up and shipped a lot of specimens and went to Calsbad in P.M. to get them off.

May 2 - Went cave hunting with Carl Livingston and Rob Dow, first to a cave in top of limestone hill a mile NW of Santa Fe tank, where I shot *Uroptis evotis* in 1901 as they came to water from this cave. Found a *Uroptis*, I should guess, hanging to the roof in a great mass held together in back end of cave. Caught a few but left him for a photograph. Caught a young Diamondback rattlesnake in cave.

- Visited a rattlesnake den near there where 19 were killed a year ago as they were lying about the entrance of a low cave opening in the limestone ledge.

Birds

Saw a fine Golden eagle
Red tail Hawks nesting
Gila woodpeckers, a pair or more
Corvus cryptoleucus, common - pairs
Callipepla squamata, a few seen.
Cliff swallows, nesting in ~~the~~ Dark Canyon,
Burrowing owl, 1 seen
Bubo, bores wells nests in caves.
Lanius, common or more
Calawaspiza, abundant in rocks

up to 100, largely black backs.

Lectrus perissoum, common in canyon.

Scissortail, said to breed at

Lionepson Ranch, 35 miles east of Gladstone.

Went up Dark Canyon and into two caves in the canyon wall where Indians had lived and had comfortable quarters. Found a few bits of old bones of game and never saw lots of small bones per Owl pellets. Both caves had some clambers that should be carefully excavated. Many old mescal pits and grinding holes seen. Plenty of Techigüillae and Sotol and Mesquite and Indian tobacco and good soil for raising corn and squashes! Stacks of Ocotillo and Cactus and other desert types of vegetation of lower Sonoran zone.

Rained in night and again after noon.

Returned to Carlsbad Caves in evening.

May 3. Came to town and out to the bat cave in Bob Dow's pasture 4½ miles west of town and half a mile west of where I shot *Mopspis evotis* in 1901. Used flashlight powder in a blow flare while Mr. Lee took moving pictures of the bats in a mass and as they flew from the low ceiling of the cave. Took snapshots also but they are not likely to be good. I think 1000 bats would be a fair estimate of the number in the cave & they seem to be all *evotis*. Caught a bag full also.

The rains yesterday have brought out the lizards more than any time before. Saw two *Crotaphytus bicinctus* many *Holbrookias* & a small black *Sceloporus*.

Krameria canescens is in bloom the first seen.

May 4 88, ran out of camp
writing up reports, packing specimens
and getting ready to go home.

Mosly warm and clear but
no real hot days.

Suffering from grip or some kind
of fever and not able to do much work.

May 9, Came to Cariboo in
morning and got ready to leave
tomorrow

May 10, Took 7:30 train north
to Crows where I caught train
to Chicago next morning -

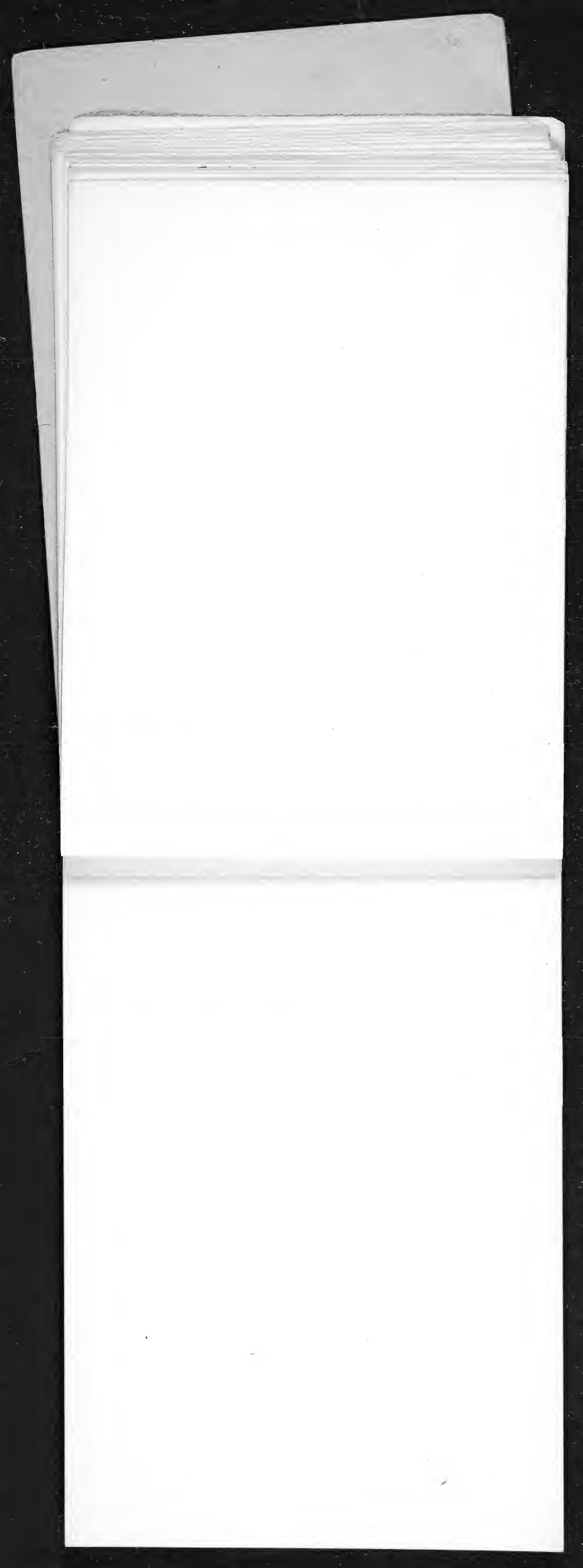
May 11, all day through Texas, Oklahoma
& into southern Kansas.

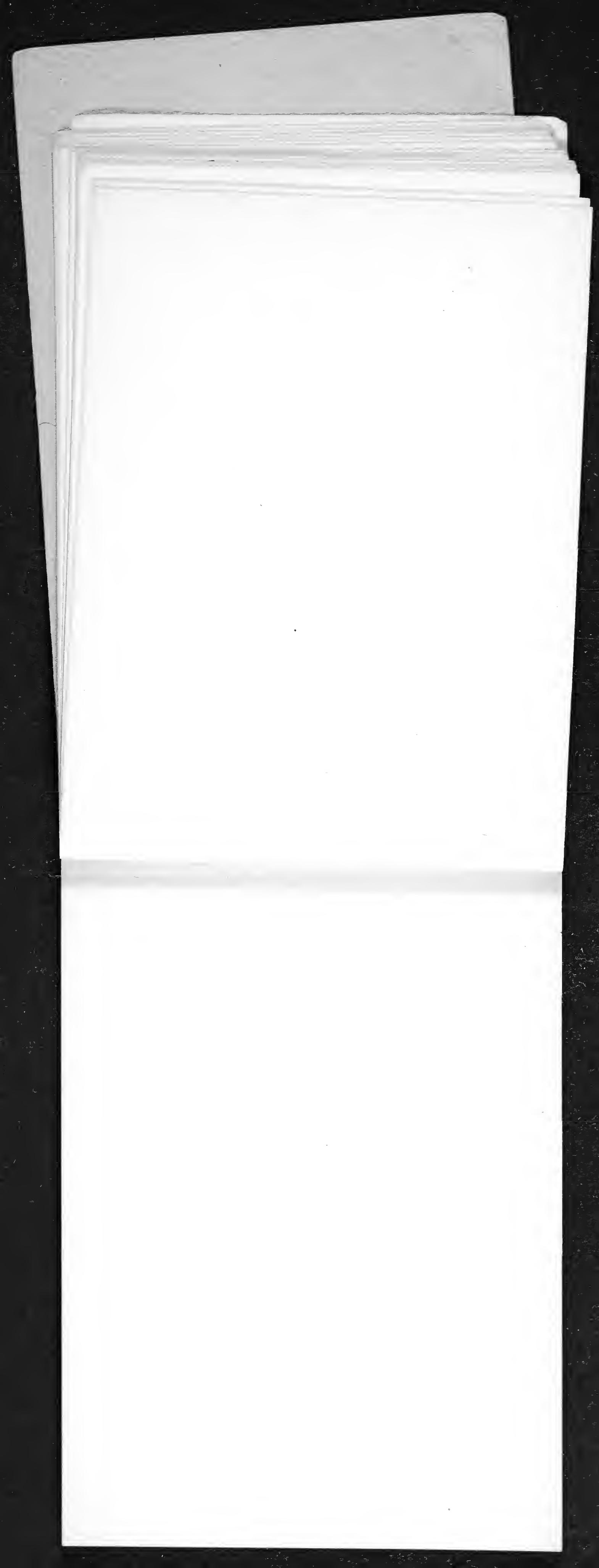
May 12, Received Chicago 7:45
PM ad transferred to Pa. depot
& left there 11:30 PM for Pittsburg.

May 13, Left Pittsburg in morning

ad arrived - Washington

10:13 PM. on time.





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WASHINGTON.

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